(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new investment pattern accepted by EPFO for its accumulated funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has not taken any decision on investment of fund under Provident Fund in share market so far. Under the existing pattern of investment as notified by the Government on 09-07-2003 Provident Fund accumulations can be invested in Government Securities, Government Guaranteed Securities, Bonds/Securities of Public Financial Institutions, short duration Term Deposit Receipt of Public Sector Banks and Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligation subject to the terms and conditions mentioned therein.

Ban on retired supervisors to be elected as an office bearer of a union

1482. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any bar for 'retired supervisor of an industrial unit' to be elected as office bearer of a recognised union and negotiate with the management; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) There is no bar for 'retired supervisor of an industrial unit' to be elected as an office bearer of a recognized union and negotiate with the management under the provisions of Section 22 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and if constitution bye-laws of the Trade Union, approved by the Registrar of Trade Union, provides for the same.

(b) Does not arise.

Minimum wages to contract and casual workers

1483. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-muster-roll and casual workers appointed in the Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(b) the details of minimum wages paid to them;

(c) the mechanism put in place to ensure payment of minimum wages to the contract and casual workers through the labour contractors or outsourcing agencies;

(d) whether Government has formulated any policy for regularisation of above workers including contract workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of ITIs through public private partnership route

1484. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) where Government propose to set up Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country through Public-Private Partnership mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such institutes set up/proposed to be set up in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether private partners have come forward for the purpose in the State and other parts of the country; and

(e) if not, in what manner Government proposes to set up in Tamil Nadu and rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per announcement made by the Prime Minister, 1500 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are being set up in Public Private Partnership (PPP). These ITIs are proposed to be set up preferably in unserviced blocks (blocks where no ITIs/ITCs exist). The purpose of setting up these institutions is to provide access to youth of skill development infrastructure in these areas.

(c) The Government of Tamil Nadu has identified 24 locations for setting up of ITIs.

(d) and (e) Bids for setting up of ITIs in PPP mode are required to be invited after Detailed Project Report is prepared. So far a Transaction Adviser (TA) has been identified to prepare feasibility report and undertake project development activities. Government expects a good response from Private Partners. However, in areas where there is no response, State Govt. may be advised to set up these institutes.

Increase in labour manpower

1485. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labour manpower in the country has increased over the years;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to provide basic facilities such as health and education to the family members of the labourers in the country; and